

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 15, 2006.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-4, 6-17, and 19-29 remain in this application. Claims 5 and 18 are cancelled. New claim 29 is added.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 16-17, 19-21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,704,750 to Bartos in view of US 4,535,656 to Orban.

Claims 14, 22, and 24-28 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartos in view of Orban and further in view of US 4,580,689 to Slater.

Claims 10-13 were considered to be allowable over the references of record.

For the reasons outlined below, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 recites a support member having a protrusion including a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of a bore of a retention element. Neither Bartos nor Orban suggest such a device.

Bartos discloses a screw with tapered threads. FIGURE 3 shows the screw attached to a boss 24 having a tapered bore 22. The Examiner argues that FIGURE 3 shows a protrusion extending from the sidewall. The Examiner has not identified any protrusion in the boss of FIGURE 3 of Bartos, and Applicant has not found any reference to protrusions in the specification.

The Examiner asserts that Orban discloses protrusions 22. However, Orban discloses a threaded stud with keyways 22, and a nut 90 which includes corresponding drive keys 98, presumably all formed of metal. The drive keys 98 of Orban are received in the keyways 22 with clearance for permitting relative axial motion (col. 4, line 32). The bolt is slid downwards, in the nut, without relative rotational motion.

In contrast, the screw of Bartos is threaded into the boss, engaging the wall of the boss in the process.

The Examiner argues it would be obvious to use the "rib design" of Orban for providing more friction. There is no motivation for combining Orban with Bartos. If the metal drive keys of Orban were to be incorporated into the boss of Bartos, they would damage the screw threads as the screw was rotated, or prevent rotation, as in the device of Orban, rendering the screw of Bartos inoperable. There is no suggestion that such drive keys could provide friction, as the Examiner proposes, without destroying the invention of Bartos.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6, 12, 14, and 29 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 7 recites a protrusion extending in first and second portions of the bore of a retention element. There is no suggestion in either reference as to how the drive keys 98 of Orban could be incorporated into the boss of Bartos and extend in both upper and lower portions of the bore.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 7, and claim 27 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 8 recites a protrusion defining an arc of an imaginary circle which is concentric with a bore. The Examiner argues that FIGURE 4 shows a protrusion defining an arc of an imaginary circle which is concentric with the bore. However, FIGURE 4 shows the keyways 22 in the stud. There is no suggestion in any of the references of a protrusion defining an arc of an imaginary circle which is concentric with the bore.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8, and claims 9, 10, 11, 13, and 28 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 16 recites a projection comprising a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of a bore. As for claim 1, there is no motivation for combining Bartos with Orban.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 16, and claims 17 and 19-24 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 25 recites a method of clamping a component to a support member which includes inserting a threaded portion of a fixing member through an aperture in the component and into a bore defined by the support member and rotating the fixing member relative to the bore such that a helical groove is formed in the bore, a projection extending

into the bore from a sidewall thereof and engaging the threaded portion upon reinsertion of a fixing member, the projection comprising a rib which extends generally parallel with a longitudinal axis of the bore.

There is no motivation for combining Orban with Bartos. Orban does not rotate the stud relative to the nut. Rather, Orban slides the stud vertically within the nut. There is no suggestion that the metal drive keys 98 of Orban could be incorporated into the boss of Bartos without destroying the invention of Bartos.

Slater, cited previously, does not solve the deficiencies of the primary references. There is no suggestion in Slater of a projection extending into the bore from a sidewall thereof.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 25, and claim 26 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

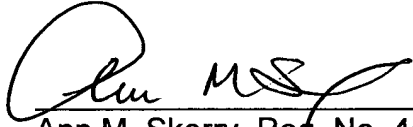
For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-4, 15-17, and 19-29) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

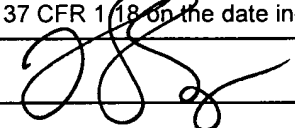
In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call the undersigned, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 7, 2006
Date


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